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SPORTS

Winchester girls hockey three games away from state championship

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester High School's girls hockey team could be on its way to a state championship. The team is three wins away. WINCHESTER NEWS FILE PHOTO

There will be a new Division 1 girls hockey state championship t
year after St. Mary's of Lynn (9-12-2), the 14th seed, was knocked

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Winchester (9-9-3), the 19th seed, 1-0 at Lynn's Connery Rink on Tuesday night, Feb. 25, in a Round of 32 game.

A total of 33 teams makes up this year's Division 1 playoffs.

The defending state champion Spartans gave up the game's lone goal late in the second period. It was scored by Josie Chang assisted by Chloe Goldberg at the 14:41 mark.

"Our girls played amazingly well," said Coach Tommy Scarpa right after the upset win. "(Goalie) Claire Zhang turned away all 26 St. Mary's shots to help secure the shutout."

The Red & Black, now in the Sweet 16, was awaiting the winner of the Malden Catholic (third seed, 14-2-4) / Westford Academy (30th seed, 2-17-1) Round of 32 game that was scheduled to take place on Wednesday night, Feb. 26, at the Valley Forum in Malden after press deadline.

The Winchester girls tied host Milton, 2-2, after getting shutout by Reading, 4-0 at Reading's Burbank Arena to close out the regular season last week.

"We outplayed Reading all game, but made a few mistakes that cost us goals in each period (which ultimately was the reason for the loss). The fourth goal was an empty net goal." said Scarpa. "We were pretty disciplined throughout the first two periods, but then ran into some penalty trouble in the third, because the puck just wasn't finding the back of the net.

"I think more of trying too hard, and not being patient," added Scarpa, "and the team was amazing against the Rockets. But good teams capitalize on other teams' mistakes, and that's just what happened here in

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But proving they are also a good team, the Red & Black bounced back against Milton. They scored twice in the first period on goals by Clare McCabe and Clara Brennan, with assists going to Scarlett Gustafson and Cate Sheehan. But then unfortunately, they let Milton back into the game on a rare shorthanded goal.

“We ran into penalty trouble again – some deserving, some not so much – late in the third period to cost us a win. (Milton) tied it up pretty quickly, setting up overtime, where we had several chances, but couldn’t bury the puck,” said Scarpa. “Claire Zhang continued to play great in net. She just gives us a chance to win every game.”

Scarpa thought the team would have had more regular season wins, and it’s not because most of the losses were by one goal, but more so because he’s a first-year coach.

“They now know what I expect from them, and how to prepare for games,” he said. “I’m certainly not disappointed, because we played some great hockey throughout the majority of the season. We, as coaches, are getting everything that we can get from them, and now just need a little puck luck along the way.

“But I’m confident we will bring our A-game to the postseason,” added the first-year Winchester coach prior to the St. Mary’s game. “This team doesn’t know the meaning of the word quit. They will leave everything out on the ice come tournament time, and I’m sure of it. If we can find the back of the net, you’ll see a totally different team. They’ve worked incredibly hard this year, so I’m not worried no matter who we play.”

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Scarpa’s postseason assessment proved to be accurate, much to t
of the defending state champs, and now the Winchester girls are three

games away from playing for the state title themselves at the TD Garden.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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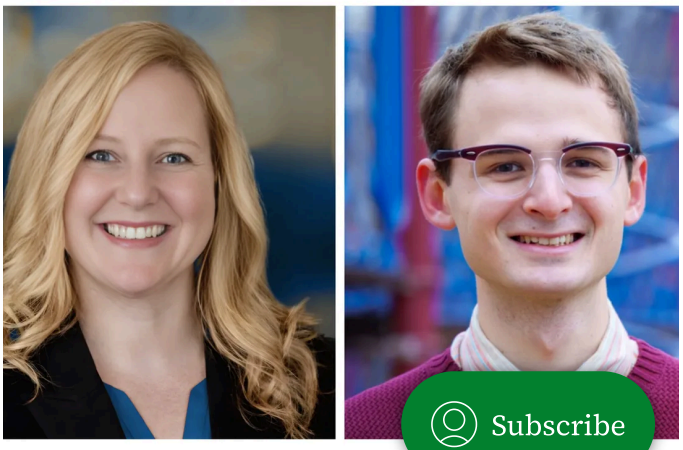

NEWS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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